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**VIOLENT HOME INVADER**  
**SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS BY FEDERAL JUDGE**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that PEDRO PABLO HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, a/k/a "Pablito 40," was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to 35 years in prison by the United States District Court Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD in connection with his participation in a series of violent home invasion robberies in the New York area between 1997 and August 2002.

According to an earlier Indictment filed against HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL and 14 other defendants, HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL was a member of a highly-organized group of home invaders who executed numerous coordinated, carefully planned home invasion robberies, primarily of narcotics traffickers in the New York metropolitan area. The Indictment charged that members of the robbery organization, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, worked with individuals referred to in Spanish as "santeros," or in English as "tipsters" who have inside information about the operations of various

narcotics traffickers in the New York metropolitan area. The *santeros* provided this inside information to the home invaders, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, so that they could plan and carry out robberies of the targeted narcotics traffickers at times when they were believed to be in possession of large quantities of drugs and/or drug proceeds.

According to the Indictment, prior to actually committing a robbery, members of the organization conducted surveillance of the targeted robbery location in order to verify the credibility of the information received from the *santero*, to make arrangements for the equipment and personnel necessary to gain entry into the targeted locations and to generally familiarize themselves with the target locations to maximize the chances of success when the robbery was carried out. Members of the robbery organization, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, typically would carry firearms in vehicles with traps, or hidden compartments, to the target location, it was charged.

Before a robbery was actually carried out, members of the organization were allegedly assigned the role of gaining entry to a target location, while others were assigned to act as lookouts outside of the location. According to the Indictment, participants who were to enter locations usually carried guns and wore gloves to reduce the likelihood that they would leave fingerprints at the scene, and lookouts frequently carried police radio scanners and

two-way radios to the robberies in order to monitor whether police were responding to the vicinity of a robbery. During the execution of a robbery, members of the organization, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, typically used crowbars, among other tools, to gain entry into the homes of their intended victims, it was charged.

Alternative means of entry were also frequently used, according to the charges. For example, because many of the targeted locations were apartments within large apartment complexes, some of the robbers in the organization developed the ability to rappel from the rooftop of an apartment building to the window of a targeted apartment, enabling the robbers to enter the target locations by surprise, it was charged. Such entry was allegedly frequently made during the night, when victims within the targeted locations were asleep.

Victims found within a target location were allegedly subdued by the robbers and tied up with wire coat hangers or telephone cord, and typically, sheets or other items would be placed over their faces and they were often made to lie face-down so that they would be unable to identify the robbers.

In order to extract information from robbery victims about the storage location of narcotics and narcotics proceeds within an apartment, members of the organization, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, often physically assaulted, and threatened to

assault, the victims, it was charged. During the course of the robberies, on at least several occasions, female victims were sexually assaulted and male victims were threatened with sexual assault, fondled, cut with knives and beaten by one or more of the robbers, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, according to the Indictment.

During the numerous robberies committed by the group, the robbers, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, stole multiple kilograms of narcotics, including heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine, which they then sold to narcotics dealers who distributed those drugs in the New York metropolitan area, it was charged. When they could not find any narcotics in a targeted location, typically because the intended victims were not in fact drug dealers, the robbers, including HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, allegedly often stole personal items of the victims, such as jewelry.

HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL pled guilty to a two-count Information charging him with possessing and using guns during the commission of two home invasion robberies.

The following 12 members of the group, all of whom committed robberies with HERNANDEZ-PRISONOL, have already pled guilty to charges related to their participation in the robberies: GREGORIO MANZUETA, a/k/a "Cusa," JUNIOR CALDERON, a/k/a "El Bi," WILSON FLORENTINE CASTILLO, a/k/a "Ramon Aponte," a/k/a "Mañoma," FRANCISCO CRUZ, a/k/a "Rubio," JOSE CONTRERAS, a/k/a "Mario La Pacha," HENRY ROBERTO ARIAS, a/k/a "Henri El Compadre," JUAN PABLO PEREZ-RAMIREZ, a/k/a "Hijo Mio," JUAN MEDINA, a/k/a "Manolito,"

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "El Monito," JOSE NUNEZ, a/k/a "Morenito," JUAN APPLETON, a/k/a "Morenon" and HECTOR MEDINA, a/k/a "Moreno." Two other members of the group, ROMAN F. HENRIQUEZ BEATO, a/k/a "Mananan" and WILLIAM DELORBE-ALVAREZ, a/k/a "Julio Felix-Silvestre," a/k/a "Israel Maldonado," have been indicted and are fugitives. NUNEZ is scheduled to be sentenced tomorrow. The sentences thus far imposed on the other defendants have ranged from 10 years' imprisonment to 36 years' imprisonment.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the New York City Police Department who jointly investigated the case.

Assistant United States Attorneys RICHARD C. DADDARIO, LAURIE A. KORENBAUM and TANYA F. MILLER were in charge of the prosecution.

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